

Tribes Learning Community



Louis B. Russell Jr. School 48 is Making it Happen!



WE ARE

We are proud to be Louis B. Russell Jr. Elementary School 48. We are an urban school, located near the heart of Indianapolis, Indiana. We are one of 46 Elementary schools in the Indianapolis Public School System. Our school was named in honor of Louis B. Russell Jr. who was an outstanding IPS educator and the world's 34th heart transplant recipient. Mr. Russell made surgical history by surpassing the record of heart-transplant survival.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

- Student success is a shared responsibility between the school, families, and community.
- Total enrolment: 408 students
- Enrollment by Ethnicity: 92.6 % African American, 2.9% Caucasian, 2.7% Hispanic & 1.7% Multiracial.
- Free/Reduced Meals: 76.7%
- Parent Involvement Educator on site to promote the involvement of parents with school activities and programs to meet the educational needs of their children.

OUR TEACHERS

Louis B. Russell is proud to have a staff of 19 highly qualified classroom teachers in PreK-6th grade. We also have two Life Skills classes, developing the skills of Moderate – Severe Special Education students. In addition, Louis B. Russell Jr. School 48 has four Title I staff, a social worker, and four Special Education Teachers who integrate students with learning needs in the General Education Classroom.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Our Promising Practice has definitely been the implementation of the Tribes Learning Community strategies. Louis B. Russell School 48 was chosen to take part in this awesome opportunity and it has made a huge difference in the learning environment. The program is designed to help develop a school climate where students and staff have a safe place to learn and excel. The Tribes agreements being implemented include Attentive Listening, Mutual Respect, The Right to Pass/Participate and Appreciations/No Put Downs. The use of this common language throughout the building, on the busses and on the playground has allowed students and staff members the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supporting environment. Students are equipped to take these skills and strategies back to their homes and communities.

In connection with the Tribes Practices, we have been able to introduce the Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART) Program. HEART is a Humane Education program which has taught our students to take pride in their community and serve others. The program exposes students to the needs of the community, city, state and world that exists outside of their own home. Instilling these values in our students has allowed and encouraged them to be giving, serving members of their community and change agents of the future.

OUR STEPS

In the spring of 2015 we were introduced to the idea of Tribes. A generous donor offered to fund the program in our building as a pilot. All staff members were introduced to the program in July 2015 with an intense three day training. This training was followed by a training of all bus drivers, cafeteria staff and custodians at Louis B. Russell Jr. It was important that all staff participated in building and maintaining a positive school culture surrounding common language and expectations.

When students returned to school, the concept was shared with parents and their children. Classrooms began implementing the strategies and the language in the building began to change. With determination and persistence, these practices have continued to change the environment with the goal of the students and staff taking these strategies into their families and communities.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

"My favorite Tribe Agreement is the Right to Pass. My teacher allows me to skip a question if I don't understand it. I like when she gives me a second chance to answer it." – 6th Grade Student

"The best thing about Tribes is that the staff are all connected together now and working as a team instead of everyone doing their own thing" – Classroom Assistant

For more information about our school or corporation, email: samcd@myips.org
or visit our website: <http://www.myips.org/louisbrussell48>